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SOURCE 1953 Ching-chi Nien-pao (The 1953 Economic Yearbook), pp 69-73.

ECONOMY OF SOUTHWEST CHINA IN 1952

[Comment: This report summarizes an article entitled, "Southwest China's Economy in 1952," by Yung Heng published in the pro-Communist 1953 Ching-chi Nien-pao (The 1953 Economic Yearbook) on 5 February 1953. The report gives data on industry, agriculture, cooperatives, minority group activities, and private businesses in the Southwest.]

A. Industries

The total industrial production of the Southwest for 1951 was 202.3 percent greater than for 1950. The industrial production for the first half of 1952 exceeded 1951 production by 119.9 percent. The Sikkim industrial production of 1952 was 228 percent greater than 1950, and industrial investment was 148 percent greater than 1951.

Following the Three-Antis Movement, the production costs of mining industries controlled by the Department of Industry of the Southwest Military and Administrative Committee were lowered 10 percent in 1952. Since the liberation, the number of mines in operation has doubled, and the number of mine workers has increased 24.5 times.

For the first half of 1952, production of manganese and antimony in Kweichow was four times and five times greater, respectively, than for the same period in 1951.

B. Agriculture

An average of 800 catties of rice per mou was harvested by the farmers in the Southwest in 1952. The production of tea in 1952 was 130 percent greater than in 1949; wheat, 1.13 percent greater than in 1951; and vegetables, 24.92 percent greater than in 1951.

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RESTRICTEDC. Cooperatives

In 1951, there were only 786 cooperatives in the Southwest, but by the end of June 1952, the number increased to more than 6,000 with a membership of 6.8 million, or 7.5 percent of the total population of the Southwest.

D. Minority Groups

The Tibetans in Sikang reclaimed over 27,000 mou of waste land in 1952. Minority groups in Wei-shui, Kweichow, irrigated over 20,000 mou of rice fields. Those of Ch'e-li, Yunnan, increased their rice production by 4 million catties in 1952.

In the fall of 1952, the minority groups in the Southwest set up over 300 trade centers, shops, and small businesses.

E. Private Businesses

The loans extended by the People's Banks in the Southwest to private industries during the fall of 1952 were 164.95 percent greater than during the same period in 1951. In September alone, the loans granted to private industries by the banks were 63 percent greater than in June 1952.

The Department of Industry of the Southwest Military and Administrative Committee placed orders for more than 90 different types of iron and steel machinery from private firms in Chungking in 1952. From July to September 1952, government purchases from private industries in Chungking were 55.68 percent greater than during the same period in 1951.

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